

Child lost and found after 18 years. An incredible story

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- **Dragoș Vasile Lupu disappeared on August 2, 1996, in Buhuși, Bacău County. Since then, his mother, Mariana Enache, has been looking for him without knowing that her son is still alive. They met again after the young man read the story in the press.**

The prayers were heard to a mother who lost her child. When she didn't even think she would ever see him again, Mariana Enache, a

woman from the town of Buhuși, Bacău County, found her son after 18 years. Dragoș Vasile Lupu, now 25 years old, had the chance, however, that the people who took him into their care, from Costesti, Arges County, contacted, last year, a journalist, Andreea Sminchișe, the one who had reported his case, in 2011. Following this approach, the Criminal Investigation Directorate of the IGPR established that the young man is one and the same as the boy in the article. As if by a miracle, the DNA test was ready on a Friday, February 14. On the same day of the week, but almost two decades ago, Dragos had disappeared from home. **He got on the train** The story of Dragoș Vasile Lupu is like that of many of the 22 children declared missing on the official website of the Romanian Police. Four years ago, Mariana Enache said that her son disappeared from home on August 2, a Friday in 1996. He was only seven years old and told his mother that he was going to play football in the schoolyard. He said he was not more than 30 minutes late. Attracted by the mirage of a train stationed in the nearby station, he climbed into one of the carriages. The gasket began to move, before the boy knew it. Later, Dragos would say that, at a certain moment, the controller came across him. He kicked him in the ass and knocked him down at the first station. Not knowing where to go, he got on another train. Thus, he arrived at Chitila Station, a stone's throw from Bucharest. There, he was found by a woman who worked at a children's foundation. This is how he arrived at the first settlement for orphans. The boy remembered that his mother's name was Maria and that she stayed both in the apartment building and in the yard, at his grandmother's house, near a train station. He knew that he had another sister, named Sibel. On the other hand, he did not know where he was from. **Lost in orphanages** He recalled that the employees of the foundation, trying to make him say where he was from, threatened to give him an injection, without notifying the police. He then ended up in an orphanage in Albesti commune, Argeș County. He was enrolled at the local Elementary School. In 2004, when the boy was in the seventh grade, the orphanage closed and Dragoș arrived at another location, in Rucăr commune. There he finished ten grades and enrolled in vocational school. Until March 2008, he did not have a birth certificate. Only then, one of the social workers took steps for Dragos to have identity documents. With the help of the benevolent

woman, the late registration of the birth was made in Rucăr. The date chosen by the "mother" was March 25, the day on which the "Annunciation" was celebrated. In 2011, he enrolled at the Industrial High School in Câmpulung Muscel and moved into social housing. Last year, in October, he found work in the city of Costești. A local man offered him a house, a meal and a salary. The man's son-in-law and daughter, impressed by his story, began to search the internet for data about Dragos. That's how they came across the story written in 2011. On Facebook, they sent a message to the journalist before Christmas. Andreea Sminchișe got in touch with the family in Costești and then with the Romanian Police. DNA tests were done with samples taken from the father and maternal grandmother. Thus, the Institute of Forensics within the I.G.P.R. established, on Friday, February 14, this year, that the boy who disappeared in 1996 is anull and the same as the young man who contacted the journalist. **Retrieval** From the day she lost her child, Mariana Enache had no peace of mind until Tuesday, when she saw him again and held him in her arms. Dragoș Lupu was reported missing on August 8. Until then, however, the mother looked for him alone, with her family or with the dog in the yard. He went through the forest, through the city, to relatives... He made an announcement on central television and in newspapers. He looked for him in Bucharest, in Suceava. She was walking with her little girl after her, without money, on the train. He also sold his gold earrings. In vain. In 2000, Mariana Enache, who was separated from Dragos' father, moved to Turkey, to her fiancé. From this relationship she gave birth to another daughter. However, he did not get along with the Turk, and went to Italy, where he still lives. From there he returned to see his lost son. **"I am happy and happy to have all the children by my side," she said at the emotional meeting that took place at the headquarters of the Romanian Police. "I'm glad and happy to have all the kids by my side."** MARIANA ENACHE, the mother who found her son after 18 years **Missing for 15 years** According to official data, published by the Romanian Police, the longest disappearance is that of a girl from Galati. The child has been wanted for 15 years. Her name is Kassandra Ungureanu and she was only three years old when she disappeared. From the data provided by the authorities, it appears that, on May 11, 1999, the little girl was left by

her mother to beg, together with another girl, near the Modern store, in Galati. Since then, she has not been found. At the time of her disappearance, she was dressed in black tencel shorts with snaps, long pants in multiple colors, blue silk hat with lace on the edges, white sneakers with laces.

<https://evz.ro/copil-pierdut-si-gasit-dupa-18-ani-o-poveste-incredibila-1085601.html>